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glands; (3) a resilient sensation given on palpation somewhat resembling an elastic distended airball; (4) size, about that of a hazel nut, a gland giving the idea of being something a little less than half an inch when taken up in the ordinary way between thumb and finger under the skin. In 1,327 palpations the percentage of enlarged glands from endemically-infected districts was found to be 62.4 per cent., as compared with 3,972 palpations, with a percentage of 39.2, where the disease did not exist. This latter figure clearly shows that enlarged glands must not always be considered proof of sleeping sickness. The letter from Mr. Williams to Dr. Neave indicates that the disease is not so severe and widespread in Katanga as was at first thought.

THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT ELIOT

At a meeting of the president and fellows of Harvard College, on October 26, President Eliot presented the following letter:

TO THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE:

Gentlemen: I hereby resign the office of president of Harvard University, the resignation to take effect at your convenience, but not later than May 19th, 1909.

The president's intimate association with the other members of the corporation in common service to the university is one of the most precious privileges of his highly privileged office. For this association with the fifteen friends who are dead, and the seven who are living, I shall always be profoundly grateful.

Congratulating you on your labors and satisfactions in the past, and on the sure prospect of greater labors and satisfactions to come, I am, with high respect,

Your friend and servant,

CHARLES W. ELIOT

10 October, 1908

Whereupon it was

Voted, That the president's resignation be regretfully accepted, to take effect May 19, 1909.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Iowa State College is just completing a new hall of agriculture of white stone construction, over two hundred feet in length, at a cost of approximately three hundred thousand dollars.

THE cornerstone of the new agricultural hall of the University of Missouri was laid recently. The building will cost \$100,000. Among the speakers were B. H. Bonfoeyn, of Unionville, Mo., a curator of the university; Norman J. Colman, commissioner of agriculture under President Cleveland; Dr. B. T. Galloway, an alumnus, now chief of the division of vegetable pathology of the Department of Agriculture; Dr. A. Ross Hill, president of the university; Dr. R. H. Jesse, late president, and Henry J. Waters, dean of the college of agriculture.

THE University of Kansas has completed the equipment of a special laboratory for water analysis in connection with the state water survey. Special problems of public water supply, sewage and industrial waste will be taken up this winter. The work for the U. S. Geological Survey in analyzing the waters of rivers and streams in the state has been completed.

WITH the organization of the department of mining engineering in charge of Professor E. C. Holden, a graduate of the Columbia School of Mines and a practical mining engineer, the college of engineering of the University of Wisconsin is giving this fall for the first time a complete course in the practical details of mining. During the first semester the students are given work in excavation, explosives, blasting and tunneling, which will be followed by other courses in boring and shaft sinking. In the second semester the subjects of prospecting, the development and the exploitation of mines will be studied, and the students from the senior class will be given additional courses in the design of haulage, hoisting, pumping and ventilating systems for mining plants. Plans are now being made for the further equipment of the department with machines and apparatus for demonstration and laboratory work. The main portion of the equipment will be centered in an ore dressing laboratory, which will probably occupy the building formerly occupied by the university heating plant. Some small additions of machinery have already been secured, and it is expected

that within a year a well-equipped ore dressing laboratory will be at the service of the students of mining engineering.

THE widow of the Bavarian Surgeon-General Lotzbeck has given the sum of 20,000 Marks to endow a scholarship for medical students.

PROFESSOR JOHN T. HAYFORD has accepted the directorship of the new school of engineering which Northwestern University will inaugurate in 1909. He will terminate his connection with the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and take up his duties at Evanston in the summer of 1909.

MR. R. E. STONE has resigned an instructorship in botany at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute to accept a professorship of agricultural botany in the University of Nebraska.

DR. CYRUS W. FIELD has resigned his position as assistant director of the research laboratory of the Department of Health, New York City, to accept the position of professor of pathology and bacteriology in the medical department of the University of Louisville.

DR. ARNOLD JACOBI, director of the Natural History Museum in Dresden, has been appointed professor of zoology in the technical high school of that city.

DR. MAX REITHOFFER has been appointed professor of electrical engineering at Vienna.

DR. ALEXANDER SUPAN, head of the Perthes Geographical Institute and editor of *Petermann's Mitteilungen*, has been made professor of geography at Breslau.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE GARTER SNAKES OF NORTH AMERICA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The U. S. National Museum has recently published (Bulletin 61, June 24, 1908) an important and very interesting account of the garter snakes of North America, by Mr. Alexander G. Ruthven. On reading the discussion of the variability in color and scutellation, I was struck by the absence of any reference to Sperry's earlier work along the same line. Again on reading the account of *butleri*, I

was surprised to find no reference to Whittaker's very detailed study of the connection between *butleri* and *brachystoma*. These omissions led me to examine Mr. Ruthven's bibliography, with the rather surprising result of finding the three following papers lacking: F. N. Notestein, 1906. The Ophidia of Michigan with an Analytical Key. Seventh Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci., pp. 111-125.

W. L. Sperry, 1905. Variation in the Common Garter-Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*). Fifth Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci., pp. 175-179.

C. C. Whittaker, 1906. The Status of *Eutænia brachystoma*. Seventh Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci., pp. 88-92.

Now, of course, it is very possible that I have entirely misunderstood the scope of Mr. Ruthven's bibliography, and that he only intends to include papers to which he refers in his text. He certainly knew of these three papers, as he has been a member of the Michigan Academy of Science since the spring of 1904.

But if his bibliography is complete so far as his own text-references go, I still do not understand why no reference is made to Sperry's and Whittaker's papers. So far as I know, Sperry's paper was the first discussion of variability in a garter snake, based on a large amount of material from a single locality. Some of the conclusions are of such importance that they ought to have been discussed by Mr. Ruthven. Concerning *butleri*, Mr. Ruthven says he has "already expressed the opinion" that Cope's specimen of "*brachystoma*" is identical with *butleri*. As Mr. Ruthven's opinion was not published until March, 1906, and Whittaker's elaborate discussion of the point was presented to the Michigan Academy, at Ann Arbor, in March, 1905, it would seem as though some mention of Whittaker's conclusions ought to have been made by Mr. Ruthven.

Very possibly it may be said that neither Sperry's nor Whittaker's paper was of sufficient importance to warrant notice, but to this I can not agree, and the purpose of this communication is to call attention to what seems to me an unfair neglect of earlier workers.

HUBERT LYMAN CLARK